

House Resolution No. 4003

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives feel it is altogether fitting and proper to pause from time to time to recognize individuals and organizations that have contributed to the welfare of this great state and its citizens or distinguished themselves through significant personal achievement; and

Whereas, the members now pause to recognize Judge Thomas N. Newton, who was elected by his ten peers on the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District as Chief Judge and who will serve a two-year term in that position effective July 1, 2008; and

Whereas, Chief Judge Newton, who was appointed to the Court of Appeals in November 1999, is the first black to assume the post of Chief Judge in the Western District, which covers forty-five counties and handles about forty percent of the state's intermediate appellate caseload; and

Whereas, before being appointed to the Court of Appeals, Chief Judge Newton served six years as a circuit judge in Jackson County, as an assistant United States attorney for the Western District of Missouri, and as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Jackson County; and

Whereas, Chief Judge Newton earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Howard University in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, in his new position, Chief Judge Newton also will serve as chairman of the 6th, 7th, and 16th judicial circuit commissions, which are responsible for selecting a panel of three nominees for judicial vacancies that occur in the County Circuit Courts in Platte, Clay and Jackson counties, respectively; and

Whereas, an active member of the Swope Parkway United Christian Church, Chief Judge Newton is the beloved husband of Renee Pryor, and they are the devoted parents of one daughter:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join to extend our most sincere congratulations to Chief Judge Newton the illustrious occasion of being named the first black to serve as Chief Judge of the Missouri Court of Appeals Westerns District; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Chief Judge Thomas H. Newton.

Offered by _____
Representative Leonard (Jonas) Hughes, IV
District No. 42

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session,
do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House
Resolution No. 4003, adopted September 2, 2008.

Rod Jetton, Speaker